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SCIENCE

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THE PROSPECT OF HUMAN PROGRESS¹

My principal purpose this evening is to invite you to look forward to the time to come and to enquire as to the prospect of human progress which is thus opened to view. But it will be necessary to give a great part of our attention to the past in order to build, as it were, a lookout from which we can obtain a vision of the future.

We shall not be so rash as to attempt a prediction of events or even of discoveries; but we shall try to determine the sort of progress which the indications of the present and the teachings of the past lead one naturally to expect. This will certainly be a safe procedure, provided that we can find common elements of fundamental importance in the basic characteristics of each period; for it can hardly be supposed that the future will suddenly depart from the principles of progress which have been impressed upon the race throughout its long period of evolution up to the present.

It will be necessary for us to pass in rapid review the great stages of development by which man has changed from a beast-like savage to a cultured civilian. We shall find that these stages have been marked off by a few leading inventions, each of them giving a fundamental new element to the period of progress following its appearance. In this review we shall be guided primarily by the researches and conclusions of ethnologists.

It is probably impossible to conceive of man existing as man and not having the elements at least of language for intercourse with his fellows. Therefore, by com-

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

¹ An address delivered to the Graduate Club of Indiana University on the evening of May 7, 1914.